

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

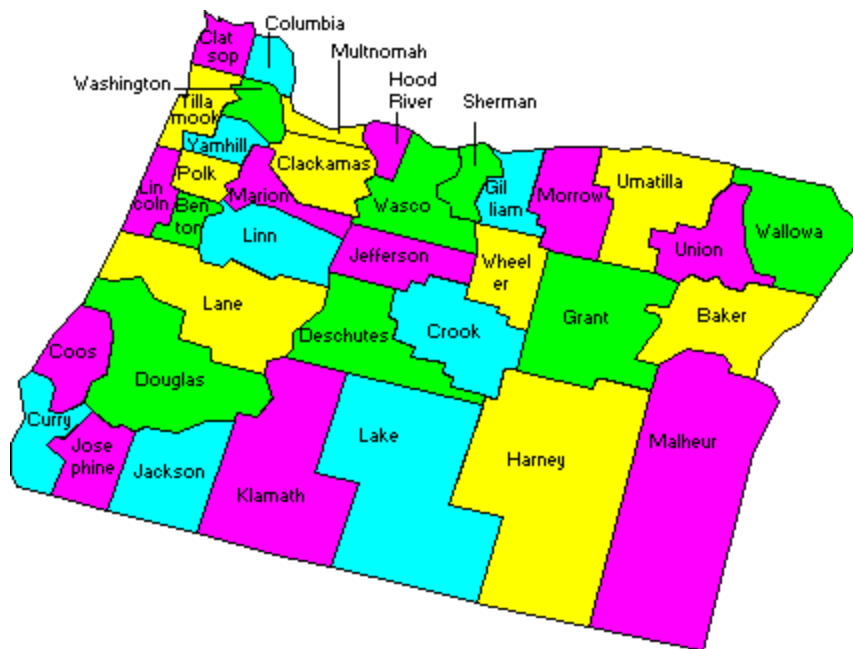
## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of Oregon

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#### Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Oregon**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 3,316,154 (1999 estimate); 2,842,321 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 92.8% white; 1.6% African American; 1.4% American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut; 2.4% Asian/Pacific Islander; 1.8% other race; 4.0% Hispanic

### **Politics<sup>2</sup>**

- Governor: John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
- Attorney General: Hardy Myers
- Secretary of State: Bill Bradbury
- U.S. Senate: Gordon Smith (R); Ron Wyden (D)
- U.S. Representatives (District): David Wu (1); Greg Walden (2); Earl Blumenauer (3); Peter A. DeFazio (4); Darlene Hooley (5)

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- FY99 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):<sup>3</sup>
  - \$100,000 to Mercy Medical Center of Roseburg
  - \$99,938 to Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action of Salem
  - \$100,000 to Next Door, Inc. of Hood River
  - \$99,877 to Silverton Together of Silverton.
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed<sup>4</sup>
  - Portland: The Target Area of this Weed and Seed site is a group of 15 communities known as the Albina Community in the North and Northeast sections of Portland. This area has the highest concentration of unemployment, depressed residential and commercial property, and the highest crime rate in Portland. The high school dropout rates here are also the highest in the City of Portland.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)<sup>5</sup>

The Oregon HIDTA was designated in June of 1999 and serves Deschutes, Jackson, and Marion counties. These counties are geographically situated to counter drug trafficking and smuggling into, out of, and through Oregon. Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO), with links to Mexico and Central America, are responsible for the majority of illegal drugs imported in to Oregon and have dominated the local heroin and methamphetamine market.

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- Crime in Oregon decreased 11.0% in the first 3 months of 1999 when compared to the same period in 1998. Despite this, the number of arrests for drug law violations increased by 2.7%.<sup>6</sup>
- There were 14,113 arrests for drug abuse violations in Oregon in 1998.<sup>7</sup>

### Arrests in Oregon, 1998

Offense	Juveniles	Total All Ages
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	14	117
Forcible Rape	42	250
Robbery	268	1,253
Aggravated Assault	479	2,111
Burglary	1,215	3,384
Larceny-theft	7,519	23,847
Motor Vehicle Theft	851	2,853
Drug Abuse Violations	1,913	14,114
Driving Under the Influence	231	15,096
Liquor Law Violations	4,888	15,137

- The Oregon juvenile arrest rate for property crime is 74% above the Nation's average.<sup>8</sup>
- In 1998, 74.3% of adult female arrestees in Portland tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests.<sup>9</sup>

### Percent Positive for Drugs, Portland, 1998

Offense Type	N		Cocaine		Marijuana		Metham.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	112	30	10.7	6.7	38.4	30.0	17.0	23.3	54.5	63.3
Property	121	66	30.6	24.2	35.5	21.2	23.1	27.3	75.2	71.2
Drug	204	91	48.0	58.2	39.3	17.6	20.6	26.4	89.2	87.9
Prostitution	1	3	100.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3
Other	323	137	22.9	35.0	36.5	27.0	15.2	17.5	64.7	70.1
Total	761	327	29.2	36.7	36.9	23.2	18.1	22.3	71.5	74.3

### Drugs<sup>10</sup>

- The top four illegal drugs in the Oregon HIDTA area are methamphetamine (speed), heroin, marijuana, and cocaine.
- Methamphetamine
 

Oregon has been a domestic producer of methamphetamine for many years. In addition to being produced locally, methamphetamine is also being imported into Oregon and exported out of Oregon by numerous DTOs. From 1995 to 1997, methamphetamine use in Oregon increased 34%. Methamphetamine is the stimulant drug of choice in Oregon.
- Heroin
 

Tar heroin is the primary form of heroin that is distributed throughout Oregon. DTOs with links to Mexico and Central America are responsible for virtually all of the tar heroin imported into Oregon.
- Marijuana
 

Marijuana is the most commonly abused illegal drug in the Oregon HIDTA area. Indoor marijuana grow operations are routinely encountered by drug task forces statewide. Oregon marijuana "bud" is often exported to other states and nations, and

is known for its high THC content. Based on samples submitted for testing, Oregon has recorded the highest (33.6%) THC content in the nation. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) ranked Oregon 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation for marijuana cultivation in 1998.

➤ **Cocaine**

Cocaine is imported in Oregon almost exclusively by DTOs with links to Mexico and Central America.

**Juveniles**

➤ *1998 Oregon Public School Drug Use Survey*<sup>11</sup>

- Approximately 1 in 4 students surveyed reported using one or more illicit substances (this excludes alcohol and tobacco) during the past 30 days.
- After dramatic increases in marijuana use from 1990-96, the 1998 findings show a decrease for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and a leveling for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. For 8<sup>th</sup> graders, marijuana use in the 30 days before being surveyed decreased from 15.3% to 11.6% in 1998. For 11<sup>th</sup> graders, this number went from 21.7% to 21.0%.
- The use of tobacco, cocaine, steroids, Quaaludes, and heroin is increasing among 11<sup>th</sup> graders. From 1996-98, the use of heroin by 11<sup>th</sup> grade students nearly doubled (1.1% in 1996 to 2.1% in 1998).
- Inhalant use is increasing among 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

➤ In 1998, 52.5% of juvenile arrestees in Portland tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests.<sup>12</sup>

Percent of Juvenile Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Portland, 1998

Offense Type	N	Cocaine	Marijuana	Metham	Any Drug
Violent	56	5.4	48.2	3.6	51.8
Property	47	2.1	51.1	2.1	51.1
Drug	14	7.1	78.6	0.0	78.6
Other	80	2.5	46.3	3.8	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>52.5</b>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- Major drug traffickers are using every available transportation method to smuggle drugs into Oregon. This includes motor vehicles, trains, ships, aircraft, buses, mail and package shippers.<sup>13</sup>
- The DEA ranked Oregon second in the nation for indoor marijuana grows seized during 1998.<sup>14</sup>

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Oregon, 1998<sup>15</sup>

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated	Bulk Marijuana Processed
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated		
693	13,587	325	17,042	30,629	772

- In the first half of 1999, DEA seized approximately 1 kilo of tar heroin in the city of Medford, which is located near the border between Oregon and California. During this same time, the Oregon State Police seized over 126 grams of tar heroin.<sup>16</sup>
- During an eighteen-month period, ending June 30, 1998, a total of 58 kilograms of cocaine and 840 grams of crack were seized in Oregon.<sup>17</sup>
- From 1996 to 1997, heroin seizures by Oregon Narcotic task forces had increased by over 300%.<sup>18</sup>
- Oregon's 28 regional task forces indicate that during a recent 32-month period, 487 pounds of methamphetamine and 1,027 liters of precursor chemicals had been seized. The 487 pounds equate to 883,620-quarter gram, single dosage units. The street value of these dosage units is \$17,672,400.<sup>19</sup>
- In 1998, there were 265 methamphetamine labs seized in Oregon.<sup>20</sup>

### **Consequences of Use**

- Since 1996, heroin has been the greatest cause of drug-related deaths in Oregon.<sup>21</sup>
- During the first six months of 1999, there were 119 heroin overdose deaths in Oregon. This represents a 75% increase compared to the first six months of 1998.<sup>22</sup>
- Cocaine use continued to be the second leading cause of drug-related overdose deaths in Oregon during the first half of 1999. Forty-two individuals died during this period, which is up 110% from 1998.<sup>23</sup>
- The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office reported that there were 233 drug-related deaths in Oregon during 1998. 177 of these were heroin-related.<sup>24</sup>

### **Enforcement**

- As of October 1998, there were 7,329 full-time law enforcement employees in Oregon. 5,282 of these were sworn officers and 2,047 were civilians.<sup>25</sup>
- In the next year, Oregon HIDTA initiatives will target over 30 drug trafficking organizations and at least one money laundering investigation.<sup>26</sup>

### **Courts<sup>27</sup>**

- During FY 1998, 23.5% of the total Federal arrests in Oregon were for drug violations.
- Of these, 53.5% involved methamphetamine, 14.8% involved powder cocaine, 2.2% involved crack cocaine, 14% involved heroin, 11.8% involved marijuana, and 2.9% involved another type of drug.
- Of those offenders convicted of drug trafficking, 99.3% received a prison sentence.

### **Corrections<sup>28</sup>**

- As of January 1, 1999, 27.1% of the entire population that was under some type of control by the Oregon Department of Corrections were drug offenders.
- At this time, there were 8,852 offenders incarcerated in Oregon prisons. 8.0% of these (684) were incarcerated for drug offenses.
- 38.6% of those offenders who received felony probation (7,135) were drug offenders.
- 22.8% of those offenders who were on parole (2,353) were drug offenders.

- From July 1997 to June 1998, 53.1% of Oregon's incoming male inmates reported regular use of a drug (excluding alcohol). Of these, 38.9% reported regular marijuana use, and 23.7% reported regular methamphetamine use.
- 62.3% of female incoming inmates during this same time reported regular use of a drug (excluding alcohol).

#### Reported Drug Use by Incoming Inmates, Oregon, July 1997-June 1998

Drug Type	Regular Use		Use, but Not Regular		Never Used	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Marijuana	38.9%	29.8%	41.2%	42.3%	19.9%	27.9%
Oral Amphetamines	9.1%	16.6%	13.8%	14.7%	77.1%	68.7%
Methamphetamines	23.7%	26.8%	16.9%	18.9%	59.4%	54.3%
Heroin	7.9%	21.1%	10.6%	14.7%	81.6%	64.2%
Cocaine	14.7%	27.4%	23.0%	28.5%	62.2%	44.1%
Any Drug (excl. alcohol)	53.1%	62.3%	31.1%	27.5%	15.8%	10.2%

"Regular Use" defined as use at least daily for 20 of 30 days

#### Treatment<sup>29</sup>

- In 1998, 20% of the clients in publicly funded alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs reported that marijuana was their primary substance of abuse. 16% of those being treated reported that amphetamines and heroin were their primary drugs of abuse.
- 64% of those being treated were males. 70% were unemployed.
- 29% of those receiving treatment were between the ages of 35 and 44.

#### Age of Treatment Clients at Admission

Age	Percent
Under 18	15%
18-24	15%
25-34	28%
35-44	29%
Over 45	13%

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> State of Oregon Web site: <http://www.state.or.us>

<sup>3</sup> Drug-Free Communities Grantees:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>

<sup>4</sup> Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

<sup>5</sup> Oregon HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/or-fs.html>

<sup>6</sup> Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting

<sup>7</sup> FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm>

<sup>8</sup> State of Oregon 1999-2001 Budget in Brief: <http://www.governor.state.or.us/governor/budget99-01/budget99-01.html>

<sup>9</sup> National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*

<sup>10</sup> Oregon HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/or-fs.html>

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- <sup>11</sup> Oregon Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, *1998 Oregon Public School Drug Use Survey*: <http://www.oadap.hr.state.or.us/research/98sss.pdf>
- <sup>12</sup> National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*
- <sup>13</sup> Oregon State Police, Drug Enforcement Section
- <sup>14</sup> Oregon HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/or-fs.html>
- <sup>15</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1998*:  
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- <sup>16</sup> Oregon HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/or-fs.html>
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> Oregon State Police, Drug Enforcement Section
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> Oregon State Police, Drug Enforcement Section
- <sup>22</sup> Oregon HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/or-fs.html>
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> Oregon Medical Examiner's Office
- <sup>25</sup> FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, October 1999:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm>
- <sup>26</sup> Oregon HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/or-fs.html>
- <sup>27</sup> U.S. Sentencing Commission: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/or98.pdf>
- <sup>28</sup> Oregon Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.state.or.us>
- <sup>29</sup> Oregon Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, <http://www.oadap.hr.state.or.us/tx/98demo.pdf>

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